

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 145300
ORIGIN OES-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 SIG-03 COME-00 SP-02
L-03 ACDA-12 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00 /060 R

DRAFTED BY OES:TRREYNDRS:MLK
APPROVED BY OES:JDNEGROPONTE, ACTING
NOAA - MR. BIRD (PHONE)
S/P - MR. BLANEY
L/OES - MR. OLSON
ARA/LA/CAR - MR. TUMMINIA
-----116559 082012Z /64

R 081547Z JUN 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE
AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO
USINT HAVANA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NASSAU
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:TPHY, USXL, XK

SUBJECT: PROPOSED HURRICANE MODIFICATION EXPERIMENT:PROJECT
STORMFURY-ATLANTIC, JULY 15 - OCTOBER 15

REF: STATE 194514 (1977)

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1. BEGIN LOU. LAST SUMMER, ADDRESSEES WERE REQUESTED TO
NOTIFY HOST GOVERNMENTS OF A PROPOSAL BY THE NATIONAL OCEA-
NIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION (NOAA) TO CONDUCT A SINGLE
HURRICANE SEEDING TEST IN THE WESTERN ATLANTIC DURING THE
1977 SEASON (REFTEL). THIS TEST WAS NOT CONDUCTED FOR LACK
OF AN ELIGIBLE STORM. NOAA HAS NOW REQUESTED THE NSC AD
HOC GROUP ON WEATHER MODIFICATION TO AUTHORIZE ANOTHER

SINGLE SEEDING TEST BETWEEN JULY 15 AND OCTOBER 15, 1978. AS WAS THE CASE LAST YEAR, THE AD HOC GROUP IS PREPARED TO AUTHORIZE THE TEST, PROVIDED THAT ALL POTENTIALLY AFFECTED GOVERNMENTS IN THE AREA ARE NOTIFIED, THAT NONE OF THESE GOVERNMENTS OBJECTS TO THE PROPOSED TEST AND THAT NONE RAISES THE QUESTION OF LIABILITY FOR DAMAGES CAUSED BY A SEEDED STORM. IN THE EVENT OF AN OBJECTION OR QUESTION REGARDING LIABILITY, THE AD HOC GROUP WOULD REEXAMINE NOAA'S PROPOSAL. END LOU.

2. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. NOAA PROPOSES TO OPERATE OUT OF MIAMI AND SAN JUAN. ELIGIBLE STORMS INCLUDE ANY MATURE STORM NORTH OF THE GREATER ANTILLES AND WITHIN 700 NAUTICAL

MILES OF MIAMI OR SAN JUAN WHOSE CENTER HAS A SMALL PROBABILITY (TEN PERCENT OR LESS) OF COMING WITHIN 50 NAUTICAL MILES OF A POPULATED LAND AREA WITHIN 24 HOURS AFTER SEEDING ENDS. NO SEEDING WOULD BE CONDUCTED IN THE CARIBBEAN OR GULF OF MEXICO. THE EXPERIMENT INVOLVES FIVE HIGHLY INSTRUMENTED AIRCRAFT -- TWO WP-30'S, TWO WC-130'S AND ONE CONVAIR 990. THESE AIRCRAFT WOULD PROVIDE NEARLY CONTINUOUS LOW-LEVEL MONITORING FROM FOUR HOURS BEFORE SEEDING UNTIL 27 HOURS AFTER SEEDING; MIDDLE LEVEL MONITORING, INCLUDING BASIC CLOUD PHYSICS MEASUREMENTS BEFORE, DURING, AND AFTER SEEDING; UPPER LEVEL MONITORING BEFORE, DURING AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AFTER SEEDING; AND NEARLY CONTINUOUS QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE RADAR MONITORING. BASIC METEOROLOGICAL DATA GATHERED DURING RESEARCH FLIGHTS WOULD BE DISTRIBUTED IMMEDIATELY, AND ALL RESEARCH DATA WOULD BE IN THE PUBLIC DOMAIN WITHIN ONE YEAR.

3. THE MAIN PURPOSE OF STORMFURY IS TO DETERMINE IF THE WIND SPEED OF A HURRICANE CAN BE DIMINISHED BY SEEDING IT WITH SILVER IODIDE FROM AIRCRAFT FLOWN NEAR THE CENTER OF THE STORM. THE MOST SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME OF PREVIOUS SEEDINGS WAS IN 1969, WHEN WIND REDUCTIONS OF 31 PERCENT AND 15 PERCENT AT 12,000 FEET WERE OBSERVED IN HURRICANE DEBBIE. SCIENTIFIC OPINION IS THAT SEEDING DOES NOT SIGNIFICANTLY AFFECT THE PATH OF THE HURRICANE AND -----

THE SELECTION CRITERIA MENTIONED IN PARA 2 ABOVE AFFORD VERY REASONABLE PROTECTION. INDEED, THESE CRITERIA PROPOSED FOR THE RENEWED PROGRAM ARE MORE STRICT THAN THAT APPLIED PREVIOUSLY IN THE ATLANTIC (24-HOUR INSTEAD OF AN 18-HOUR RESTRICTION.) THE U.S. ITSELF IS THE NATION MOST LIKELY TO BE IMPACTED IF THE SEEDED STORM SHOULD EVENTUALLY REACH LAND. THE PROPOSAL HAS BEEN

JUDGED TECHNICALLY SOUND AND FEASIBLE BY NOAA; IT IS ESSENTIALLY A CONTINUATION OF EXPERIMENTS CARRIED OUT IN THE ATLANTIC DURING THE 1960'S. THE U.S. HAS CONDUCTED NO HURRICANE SEEDINGS IN THE ATLANTIC OR ELSEWHERE SINCE 1971. IT SHOULD BE EMPHASIZED THAT THIS IS ONLY ONE EXPERIMENTAL SEEDING.

4. THE APPLICATION OF THIS TECHNOLOGY, IF STORMFURY EXPERIMENTS SHOULD DEMONSTRATE THAT IT IS SUITABLE FOR OPERATIONAL PURPOSES, COULD BRING GREAT BENEFITS TO THOSE REGIONS OF THE WORLD THAT REGULARLY SUFFER HEAVY LOSS OF LIFE AND SEVERE DAMAGE FROM TROPICAL STORMS. THE USG CONSIDERS THE STORMFURY PROJECT AS RESPONSIVE TO UN RESOLUTION 2914 (XXVII) OF NOVEMBER 9, 1972, WHICH CALLS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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UPON THE WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION AND MEMBER STATES TO QUOTE DISCOVER WAYS AND MEANS TO MITIGATE THE HARMFUL AFFECTS OF TROPICAL STORMS AND TO REMOVE OR MINIMIZE THEIR DESTRUCTIVE POTENTIAL UNQUOTE. END UNCLASSIFIED.

5. BEGIN LOU. ACTION REQUESTED: DRAWING ON INFORMATION IN PARAS 2 - 4 ABOVE, ADDRESSEES ARE REQUESTED TO DISCUSS PROJECT STORMFURY WITH FOREIGN OFFICE AND/OR OTHER APPROPRIATE HOST COUNTRY AUTHORITIES. WITHOUT REQUESTING FORMAL CLEARANCE OR APPROVAL FOR CONDUCTING THE EXPERIMENT, YOU SHOULD INDICATE THAT THE US WISHES TO INFORM HOST GOVERNMENT OF THE PROPOSED TEST AND WOULD BE HAPPY TO RECEIVE ANY COMMENT OR RESPOND TO ANY QUESTIONS CONCERNING IT. IF YOUR HOST GOVERNMENT SEEKS ADDITIONAL SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL BACKGROUND WHICH CANNOT BE SATISFIED BY CABLE RESPONSE, NOAA IS PREPARED TO SEND SCIENTISTS OR OFFICIALS TO DISCUSS THE PROPOSAL IN DETAIL AND YOU MAY SO STATE. IF THE HOST AUTHORITY RAISES GENERAL OBJECTION TO THE PROPOSED TEST, YOU SHOULD INDICATE THAT YOU WILL REPORT THEIR VIEWS TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT. IF THE ISSUE OF LIABILITY FOR DAMAGE IS RAISED, YOU SHOULD INDICATE WE ARE GIVING CAREFUL CONSIDERATION TO THIS QUESTION, ALTHOUGH THE CHANCES OF DAMAGE ARE EXTREMELY SMALL. IF ASKED WHETHER SCIENTISTS FROM COUNTRIES IN THE AREA WOULD PARTICIPATE, YOU MAY STATE THAT EVERY EFFORT WOULD BE MADE TO PROVIDE BRIEFINGS AND TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE COOPERATIVE SCIENTIFIC ACTIONS. IN ORDER TO MEET NOAA'S TIME SCHEDULE, ANY RESPONSE SHOULD REACH THE DEPARTMENT BY JUNE 30. IN THE ABSENCE OF A RESPONSE, WE WILL ASSUME THE HOST GOVERNMENT HAS NO OBJECTIONS OR QUESTIONS. VANCE
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DRAFTED BY:OES/APT/SA:COL. EDDINGTON

APPROVED BY:OES/APT/SA:EDDINGTON

S/P, L/OES AND ARA/LA/CAR

-----026126 230902Z /20

R 230410Z JUN 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL HAMILTON

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FOL STATE 145300 SENT ACTION KINGSTON PORT AU PRINCE
SANTO DOMINGO HAVANA LONDON NASSAU THE HAGUE PARIS BRIDGETOWN
PORT OF SPAIN JUNE 8, 1978 REPEATED TO YOU QUOTE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 145300

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:TPHY, USXL, XK

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
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Concepts: STORMS, WEATHER MODIFICATION, STUDIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780680/aaaacreg.tel
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Message ID: 4519408f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 194514
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Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
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Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2435313
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PROPOSED HURRICANE MODIFICATION EXPERIMENT:PROJECT STORMFURY-ATLANTIC, JULY 15 - OCTOBER 15
TAGS: TPHY, US, XK, XL
To: KINGSTON PORT AU PRINCE MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/4519408f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
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